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Bell Preserves Right to Sue Critic of CIA

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell said yesterday he is in no hurry to take legal action against John Stockwell, the latest former Central Intelligence Agency official to write a book critical of the agency.

"We don't have to go after Stockwell now," Bell said during a luncheon with Washington Post editors and reporters. "The statute of limitations gives us a good while to do something."

Stockwell's book criticizes the CIA's involvement in the civil war in Angola.

The Justice Department has filed a civil suit against Frank Snepp, another former CIA employe, because he, too, wrote a book without submitting it to the intelligence agency for review. The suit seeks all profits from the book.